

PATRIOT

THE BEST IN THE AIR FORCE

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER AFB

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439th AW MISSION: Actively support national objectives on a global scale with ready, mobility forces

DEMOBILIZATION: REAL OR RUMOR

NOW — This commentary was written on June 11. Senior Air Force leadership is scheduled to meet this week to address the issue of demobilization. Based on the flow of message traffic and what we can read in the newspaper it would appear that there is much more discussion today about demobilization in the near term. To date (June 11), the only official demobilization authority we have received is for members of the 58th APS who were originally activated for one year and will be demobilized in the very near future upon return from their overseas deployment.

PROCESS — To give you some insight as to how this process works, understand that for the most part, activations have been to support our gaining major command (GMAJCOM), which is Air Mobility Command (AMC). A small number, less than 60, were activated here at Westover at my request to support our large activated population, and a handful more were activated to support AFRC. GMAJCOM has to first identify for Air Force that some or all of the forces mobilized for support of ongoing operations are no longer necessary. This would lead to a demobilization order from Air Force to AFRC and down to us.

At this point, we would begin the process of demobilizing those members identified in the order. Chances are that if you were mobilized as a squadron, demobilization would occur for the entire squadron. There has been some talk of demobilizing individuals from squadrons and letting others stay mobilized. This is not the normal process and I do not believe that this would occur. More likely, if AMC needs additional help after the unit is demobilized, manday tours would be offered. Normally 30 days are allowed from the demobilization decision date until release from active duty is affected. This allows time for employer notification, debriefings, leave and out-processing. Should large-scale demobilization occur in the next few months, the last members of the wing to be demobilized would be those I requested to be activated because they play such a key role in the demobilization process for the wing.

FUTURE — You may ask what is going to happen in the future since we know the War on Terrorism is not over. Over the last couple of months, mobilizations have occurred for support forces in increments of 120-day activations. The thought here is 15 days of preparation, 90 days deployed, and 15 days reconstitution before demobilization. This also allows for any transportation glitch that may occur enroute. Based on what is happening today, it would seem that the future would be the same for those folks that make up the Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS). As long as Operation Enduring Freedom generates additional requirements, support of AEF tasking could be met by what we see happening today. If we can ever achieve predictability through AEF, as the preferred method of filling overseas requirements, then being in the bucket could mean potential 120-day AEF



Col. Martin M. Mazick

Continued on page 7 (see AEF)

Briefs

Council seeks volunteers for visit to Soldiers Home

The Base Advisory Council has a visit to the Soldiers Home in Holyoke scheduled for the August A UTA.

Council members and volunteers will meet on Aug. 3 in the parking lot of the fitness center at 9 a.m. and return to Westover at noon. Reservists should wear their dress blues.

For more information contact TSgt. Sabine Dietrich, 439th AMDS, at Ext. 3565.

Voting program, links available at new web site

Base personnel can now obtain information on the Voting Assistance Program's new web site.

The site provides a variety of information on how to register and/or request an absentee voting ballot, updated primary election information and dates, and voting assistance program contacts at Westover.

"I highly encourage people to exercise their right to vote and become an active participant in our democracy," said Col. Martin Mazick, 439th Airlift Wing commander.

Links are available on either the internal (<https://westover.af.mil>) or external site (www.afrc.af.mil/439aw).

For more information on the voting program, contact Maj. Walter Lassiter Jr. or Kathleen Kies at Ext. 3513.

July UTA schedule A UTA July 13-14 B UTA July 27-28

Cover Photo

COLD DAY IN DOGPATCH - TSgt. Michael Thomas (foreground) and TSgt. Daniel Boucher, 439th MXS aerospace ground equipment specialists, set up portable heaters and ducts during a freak snowfall that added to the Team Yankee challenge in May. See article and photos on page 3.

- photo by MSgt. Thomas Allocco

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PATRIOT

Unusual May weather fails to dampen Team Yankee spirit

Article and photos
by MSgt. Thomas Allocco

Icy rain hit him in the face and soaked his uniform as he ran and splashed through the mud for his hootch. The civilian volunteer paused to look up at the leaden gray sky.

"I love this," he muttered, as he sized up Team Yankee, the annual premier joint service medical exercise at Westover. Held each May, this year's events started off cold and turned into a test of endurance when freakish weather changed steadily falling rain to snow.

TeamYankee participants, caught off-guard by the weather, slogged through mud and pulled their jackets tight against the wet and cold. Westover's meteorologists said it was the latest seasonal significant snow ever recorded here.

Several hundred participants spent the night of May 17 in small, unheated tents, and woke up to the unexpected cold. Westover's 439th Maintenance Squadron aerospace ground equipment crews and Navy Seabees, who hustled to set up heaters in the hootches, were among the heroes of the event.

A dozen 439th Services Squadron food services specialists were up early to serve scrambled egg breakfasts and hot coffee by 5:30 a.m.

"Part of Services' responsibility is to furnish warm meals in the field," said TSgt. Joseph Lecuyer. "That's when troops especially appreciate it and that makes our job rewarding."

TSgt. Terry Burke, 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, spent a long day administering records as dentists performed exams in a hootch with intermittent heat and light. She had the satisfaction of assisting dentist 1st Lt. Rory McClaurin and other Army National Guard dental specialists giving real world dental exams to Marines and Seabees during Team Yankee.

They also learned to overcome the challenges of medical care in the field. With patients seated in a portable dental chair, they worked under a broken lamp held in place with a rope.



QUICK RESPONSE — Civilian disaster medical assistance team medical specialists carry moulaged volunteers with simulated wounds to an ambulance Humvee during Team Yankee, a medical exercise hosted by Westover in May.



FIELD CONDITIONS — Army National Guard 1st Lt. Rory McClaurin conducts dental exams for Seabees and Marines during Team Yankee in a hootch with sporadic heat and light.

"My hands were practically numb....then we lost power for a while. Fortunately we found penlights, but opened the door for light, which made it cold again," Burke said.

Team Yankee instructor SMSgt. Charles Willis was pleased to see his students and others rise to the challenge. "The weather is realistic. Similar to Afghanistan, right? Everybody has a good attitude," he said. "Everybody is taking care of safety, watching out for hypothermia. Everybody is watching each other. No one wants to quit. The mission is going on," he said.

Team Yankee 2002, one of the largest joint service medical field exercises on the East Coast, involved more than 600 members of the four armed services. The exercise spotlighted all five echelons of military medical care from the battlefield to evacuation to a major medical facility. The field operation was also a final test for six Team Yankee students following nine months emergency medical technician training at Westover.

Civil Air Patrol and Young Marines volunteered to be simulated casualties. Participants provided initial battlefield first aid and transported them by ambulance Humvee to a battalion aid station and a mobile aeromedical staging facility. Their final destination was a simulated aeromedical staging facility operated by about 100 medical specialists of the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron in the Base Hangar. In addition, a West Virginia C-130 aircrew conducted three simulated airlift missions.

A highlight of Team Yankee 2002 was the involvement of civilian medical professionals, many of whom responded to the World Trade Center attack on Sept. 11.

About 80 civilian medical specialists belonging to the Disaster Medical Assistance Team of New England volunteers set up a mobile air staging facility.

"Team Yankee's snow, slush, sleet and rain were a good test for our new people," said Robert Hopkins, who led the civilian contingent in the exercise. "It was a good test of their mettle under adverse conditions."

Exercise commander for Team Yankee was Marine Col. Gerard Boyle. Team Yankee 2002 concluded with a retreat ceremony preceded by honors for the late Marine Sgt. Maj. James Faria, a founder of the exercise and long-time camp commander.



FACING THE MUSIC —
Clockwise: SSgt. Andre Theriault, (at left) 439th Maintenance Squadron, gets a hug from his girlfriend, Jo-Ann Barbieri after his return to Westover on May 30; TSgt. Steven King, 439th MXS, is welcomed home by his family; Lt. Col. Daniel Allen, 439th MXS commander, thanks the eighth grade band for their performance; flag bearer Stephanie Hebert holds the Stars and Stripes as the Chestnut Hill Community School band plays.

- photos by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Families, local band greet returning troops

While the comings and goings of men and women of the 439th Airlift Wing have become common at Westover, 40 reservists returning from overseas duty in May to musical fanfare.

As airmen stepped off the C-5 to frantic waves from their family members, they heard more than just cheers. Music drifted over the flightline too. The eighth grade band from the Chestnut Hill Community School in Belcher-town provided about an hour of popular and patriotic music for the occasion.

Maintenance workers set up rows of chairs next to Hangar 9 for the band. Col.

Martin M. Mazick, 439th Airlift Wing commander, was on hand to welcome the troops home, and praised the band's performance.

"The community of Belcher-town can be very proud of the young people who represented them so well during this homecoming," Mazick said. "These talented musicians added a very special flavor to this event."

Another group of maintainers headed overseas on May 28 for a 90-day tour.

As of May 30, 1,230 people have been activated at Westover for Operation Enduring Freedom.





NOT YOUR HOLIDAY INN... — Tent-city area, "Camp Andy," is home-away-from-home for Westover folks.

58th Aerial Port Squadron - Serving in the sand

by Maj. John
58th APS Deployed OIC

Sixty members of the 58th Aerial Port Squadron now better understand what a short-notice tasking and deployment really means after recently experiencing it first hand.

For a select 24, it meant a span of forty-eight hours from mobilization to deployment.

"It was just that quick," said Maj. John, 58th APS mobilization officer and deployment OIC, referring to the call to report that came on a Friday and the team was airborne the following Monday.

Three months into their rotation, reservists from the 58th APS were serving in five different overseas locations supporting Operation Enduring Freedom as part of the 379th Air Expedition Wing.

The major said there is a tremendous amount of pride in knowing the 58th was the first reserve aerial port squadron called to active duty. "We actually see the results of our efforts every day and the impact we are making. We are directly supporting the 'war fighters' at the tip of the spear," he said.

At a deployed location known as Camp Andy, the 58th ran a stand-alone aerial port operation providing cargo, passenger, and airlift technical expertise to all military and contracted civilian aircraft transiting to and from the location. The squadron's primary responsibility was dealing with safety-of-flight issues and ensuring all cargo complied with regulations, was properly configured, and inspected for hazardous materials.

The 58th aerial porters at "Camp Andy" also worked hand-in-hand with other squadron members at a nearby location called "Camp Snoopy" that is 25 kilometers down the road. "We already have an excellent working relationship because we belong to the same unit," said SMSgt John, the squadron's deployed team chief. "No learning curve is necessary. This enables us to mutually support each other to expedite the movement of cargo and passengers within the (area of responsibility)."

Information passed freely between the two locations ensuring high-priority airlift cargo remained on schedule. As soon as the "rotator" hits the ground, squadron passenger service experts worked the airlift system to deploy the people to

their final destinations.

According to TSgt. David, 58th Passenger Service NCOIC, he and his staff created the best and most efficient terminal in the region. "It's not what we think that matters, it's what our joint service 'customers' keep telling us," he said. The team decreased the time people spent awaiting transportation from ten days to three in only two months, he added.

"It's an incredible logistical feat. The numbers speak for themselves: over 350 aircraft, 9,000 passengers and 10 million pounds of cargo processed and our rotation isn't over yet. We've worked very hard to improve this operation. We are proud of what we have accomplished," said the sergeant.

The 379th AEW also hosted numerous distinguished visitors during the squadron's rotation including Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and U. S. Central Command Commander, Gen. Tommy Franks. Vice President Cheney's visit and 10-minute speech energized the base populace who gave him a tremendous reception, the major said.

In addition to the experience, members of the squadron also garnered individual recognition. For instance, TSgt. Henry was selected 379th AEW Logistics Group NCO of the month for May, and was selected to have lunch with Franks. He now has the general's four-star coin as a memento.

Living and working in a desert "tent city" is all a matter of perspective, the major says. "In many ways we are extremely fortunate to be here. You really appreciate the simple things in life when you have to do without them for so long."

The members of the 58th answered the call and deployed just like the hundreds of other reservists from the 439th AW, he said. The 120-plus degree temperatures, the blistering heat and blowing sand are all in a day's work. "We just deal with it and make the mission happen," he said.

The major commented this base grew out of the sand in October of 2001. "It's really amazing what has been accomplished here in such a short time. For some it is their second rotation. I have a feeling we will be back again real soon too. In a strange way I am looking forward to it. I want to see the continuous progress from the foundation we helped lay down," he said.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Air Force Reserve security guidelines prohibit use of surnames for reservists serving overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

New loader arrives

GET A LOAD OF THIS — Members of the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron welcome the arrival from the Orlando, Fla. factory of a new 25K loader on June 4. The Halvorsen New Generation Loader includes more automation, higher reach, and added capability to load and unload wide body aircraft.

— photo by MSgt. Thomas Allocco



Base clinic offers basic medical care for activated reservists

by Lt. Col. Robert Sousa

Personnel from the 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron were recently activated to provide basic medical care for activated reservists in support of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. The 19 personnel activated are organized under the designation of an air base clinic.

As confusing as it may seem, the clinic is not a medical treatment facility and has privileges only to conduct physical exams, give immunizations and to provide a very basic sick call service. This article is intended to clarify what services the base clinic offers.

Routine air base clinic hours are from 7 a.m. - 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday. Services provided include: limited outpatient care (minor illness, simple strains/sprains), immunizations, occupational physicals, dental exams, Reserve Component Periodic Health Assessment (RCPHA), drug testing, gas mask inserts, hypertension screening and weight management counseling. Clinic personnel are available to evaluate medical problems and determine appropriate dispositions.

Sick call is a walk-in treatment service for active duty personnel with minor medical problems. Sick call hours are from 7:30-9 a.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 8-10 a.m. on Saturday. For emergencies requiring immediate assistance, call 911 anytime, or proceed to an area emergency room.

Immunizations and laboratory services are available from 8-10:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. RCPHA physicals are available on Tuesday, and occupational physicals are available on

Wednesday, both by appointment. Dental exams are available Tuesday through Thursday by appointment only. Limited Optometry services are available on Wednesdays by appointment only. Physical profile issues and documentation delivery can be accomplished from 8-11 a.m. and from 1-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call Ext. 3018 for occupational exams, 2690 for RCPHA, 2644 for dental exams, 2661 for immunizations, 2659 for laboratory and 3565/3197 for optometry appointments and general information.

After duty hours: Active-duty personnel on evening/night shifts and weekends who become acutely ill and are unable to perform their duties may page the medical technician on call by contacting the wing command post at Ext. 3571. The medical technician will return the call and perform telephone triage to determine appropriate disposition. Personnel who become injured after duty hours and need immediate care should proceed to a local emergency room and return documentation of the visit to the clinic as soon as possible. For emergency assistance, call 911.

TRICARE is the health care benefit program for active duty military members and their families. All activated personnel need to enroll in the program and must choose Primary Care Managers (PCMs). It is important that you do this immediately in case you need specialist referrals, and also, so that more PCMs can be added to the network.

Currently, only a little over 50 percent of our activated personnel have chosen PCM's. Sierra Military is the TRICARE

Clinic information

Questions about air base clinic services or appropriate measures for health care issues, may be directed to Ext. 3565 or 3197. Reservists can also access the 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron web site, which explains many of the benefits available. The site may be accessed through the wing web site at <https://www.westover.af.mil>. Information is also available on the Westover off-base site address at <http://www.afrc.af.mil/439aw>

contractor for Region One in which Westover ARB belongs. Sierra will not add any more providers unless the numbers determine the need. If you have any questions about your TRICARE benefit, or if you would like a TRICARE presentation at your Commander's Call or other group gathering, call 1st Lt. Robert Driscoll at Ext. 2666.

After personnel visit civilian PCMs, there can sometimes be confusion about issues like convalescent leave, prescribed medications and fitness for duty. First of all, the flight surgeon is the final review authority on what constitutes proper convalescent leave. If a PCM recommends leave, the flight surgeon must review the recommendation for approval. All disqualifying medical conditions and treatments are reported back to the clinic by the Medical Military Support Office (MMSO). If you have questions about whether a condition or prescribed treatments and medications may be disqualifying, you may contact MSgt. Jean Allison in the flight medicine section at Ext. 2620.

Loadmasters (right) from the 337th Airlift Squadron at Westover and local workers push an aerial refueling boom from a KC-135 Stratotanker onto a C-5 Galaxy to be sent back to home station at a forward-deployed location supporting Operation Enduring Freedom on May 21. At far right, SSgt. Desmond, a 337th AS loadmaster, secures tanker support equipment on a C-5A Galaxy on the same mission.



(U.S. Air Force photos by SSgt. Sarah Webb-Frost)



Worldwide duty



SSgt. Scott, a 439th AGS aircraft communication and navigation technician, marshals in a C-5 at a forward-deployed location supporting Operation Enduring Freedom on May 21. As of May 22, more than 37,000 people in the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve have been called to active duty to support U.S. military operations worldwide.

Demobilization Commentary... continued from page 2

mobilizations supporting 90-day rotations.

BOTTOM LINE — Be assured that until you hear it from wing leadership, it is a rumor. There are a lot of what if questions being asked as the Air Force attempts to determine what its real requirements are in order to allow reservists to be demobilized and returned to their normal lives. Questions gen-

erate rumors and depending how you feel, could be positive or negative. I ask you not to spread them as you hear them. I will do my utmost to get you the straight word as soon as I know it. I am attending an AFRC Commander's conference in late June and hope to have a more definitive word by the July A UTA.

Your performance to date has been superb. You not only have accomplished the mission, you're doing it safely.

Thanks for all you do!

by Col. Martin M. Mazick
439th Airlift Wing commander



photo by SrA. Amber Ryals



photo by TSgt. Andrew Reitano



photo by TSgt. Andrew Reitano

Air Force Reserve band plays to wide audience

The Band of the Air Force Reserve visited Westover and performed at locations in Western Mass. and Boston April 11-14.

The 37-member ensemble from Robins AFB, Ga., includes the Reserve Generation rock band, Woodwind Quintet, Brass Quintet, Pipe Band, and Dixie Express. According to Col. Tom Mauzaka, special assistant to the 439th AW commander, the purpose of the band visit is to reach out to potential recruits and increase awareness of the Air Force Reserve within local communities.

The band performed in an area school (top photo) and at the City Hall Plaza in Boston (photo above). At left are members of the Pipe Band.

All concerts were free and open to the public. Each year the band travels more than 100,000 miles, performing world-wide in more than 500 concerts. All band members are full-time professional Air Force musicians working in support of recruiting and community outreach programs.



photo by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Westover brings airlift muscle to global exercise in Hungary

by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

"You call, we haul" has long summarized Westover's worldwide C-5 mission.

Squeezed between Operation Enduring Freedom flights, 26 members of the 439th Airlift Wing answered the call to support a joint-service, multinational power projection exercise in May that involved more than 2,500 American military members from stateside and European bases.

Hungarian Response 2002 tested the ability of NATO and U.S. forces to deliver heavy equipment and international paratroopers to drop zones in Keckemet and Tazar, Hungary. It also tested their ability to sustain a theater-level, non-combatant evacuation operation while establishing and conducting airspace command and control with other alliance countries.

Westover provided the C-5 and aircrew, combining with C-130s and C-141s, to deploy forward-based forces in simulated response to possible threats in Europe. Nine members of Westover's 42nd Aerial Port Squadron handled 17 flights, performing engine-running offloads (EROs) for 416 tons of cargo and 285 troops over a two-day period. Despite the high volume of activity, including offloading an M-1 tank, SMSgt. Daniel Turner said the 42nd APS found



Photo courtesy of CMSgt. John Szewc

HASTY EXIT — SrA. Gerald R. Sisco Jr., 337th AS loadmaster, guides the M-1 tank from the belly of the C-5 during Hungarian Response 2002 held in May. Twenty-six Westover reservists participated in the multinational exercise testing U.S. forces and NATO's ability to respond to European threats.

no new challenges at the exercise primarily due to excellent annual tour training. "With the engines running, you have to work really fast because of the exhaust. Our emphasis was on safety with so many other players involved," said the 42nd APS ramp services supervisor.

Five members of Westover's 439th Airlift Control Flight, headed by Lt. Col. James R. Hosey, served as "orchestra conductors" for the exercise, making sure all players were in place at the right time. They worked with ALCF members from Dover AFB, Del. and McGuire AFB, N.J. to form the composite 459th Tanker Airlift Control Element (TALCE). Westover's aerial

porters worked with the TALCE team and formed the only Reserve section in the entire exercise.

According to 439th ALCF Superintendent SMSgt. Bob Seaton, working between Ramstein Air Base in Germany, Mildenhall Air Base in England, and Hungarian air bases, they primarily dealt with the U.S. Army and Air Force. The army dealt with the host nations. "We normally have the total command and control for an entire operation, but we specifically focused on airlift for this multi-nation exercise," said Seaton. "When the C-5 landed, it had to park on the runway, so all airlift operations shut down until onload and offload were accomplished. It had to be fast," he said, adding that the average ground time for the C-5 was only 45 minutes.

"May 14-15 were intense airlift days, but everything went smoothly," said Hosey. "The air base didn't have C-5 provisions so you hoped you didn't break."

The full Westover contingency represented years of experience and that was cited repeatedly as key to their performance.

"We impressed a lot of people," said Hosey, adding that the 439th is already asked to return for a similar exercise in Poland next year.

Hungarian Response 2002

439th Airlift Control Flight

Lt. Col. James R. Hosey
SMSgt. Robert C. Seaton
TSgt. John L. Szafko
SSgt. Eileen M. Moloney-Cook

SrA. Michael J. Bailey

42nd Aerial Port Squadron

CMSgt. John Szewc
SMSgt. Daniel Turner
MSgt. James Garrity

MSgt. Donald Martel
TSgt. Robert Roberts
TSgt. Richard Boynton
TSgt. James Payne
TSgt. Fernando Santana
SrA. Michael Rogers

337th Airlift Squadron

Lt. Col. Michael A. Vinskey
Maj. Michael W. Smith
Capt. Michael A. DeSantis
SMSgt. Elton W. Wiehe

MSgt. Thomas G. Durkin
TSgt. Thomas W. Deyette
TSgt. Mark R. Silva
TSgt. Todd R. Wesoloskie
SrA. Ryan L. Langlois
SrA. Gerald R. Sisco Jr.

439th Aircraft Generation Squadron

TSgt. Kevin M. Bowen
SSgt. Albert R. Raymond

Critical 101 Days of Summer: a time to exercise caution

by Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III
Commander of Air Force Reserve Command

WASHINGTON - Since the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, we are all much more aware of the need for diligent force protection. However, we also need to apply that same kind of vigilance off duty in the coming months, as we attempt to pack as much fun as possible into an all-too-brief summer.

Memorial Day Weekend signaled the start of the Critical 101 Days of Summer, a time when off-duty mishaps are more likely to happen. Long workdays, coupled with alcohol consumption and horseplay, can spell disaster for even the most-seasoned citizen airman.

Here's a list of tried-and-true suggestions from the Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Directorate of Safety on how to survive and remain uninjured during the 101 critical days:

Alcohol consumption: Don't drink and operate vehicles, such as automobiles, boats, jet skis, etc. If you drink, do it moderately and always appoint a designated driver.

Traveling: Be sober, vigilant and well-rested;

Boating: Know your craft and the waters you are operating within, and use personal flotation devices;

Swimming: Swim with a buddy in known waters and don't drink; Jet skiing: Operate with caution, staying away from boaters, fishermen, swimmers and other jet skiers;

Seatbelts: Use them and ensure passengers do the same. Remember, "it's the law;"

Outdoor activities: Stretch muscles before athletic activity, don't overdo it, avoid prolonged exposure to the sun, use sunscreens and drink plenty of water; and

Risk management: Use common sense, plan ahead and be prepared.

Enjoy your summer with family and friends, but be safe. Each member of our force is an irreplaceable resource in the continuing war on terrorism. Our nation needs each of us, our families need us, and I need you to help meet the challenges our nation is asking of our great Air Force!

(AFRC News Service)

Medical units ace HSI inspections

by MSgt. Thomas Allocco

Two medical squadrons on base recently underwent top-to-bottom Health Services Inspections.

The bar was set high, but the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron medical specialists cleared it almost perfectly when they opened all their records and documentation for a Health Services Inspection conducted by the Air Force Inspector General in May.

The unit achieved an almost perfect score following an intense, three-day scrutiny of everything from individual morale and professional knowledge to record keeping, annual plans, training, and documented adherence to regulations.

Conducted once every four years, the HSI is the military equivalent of a state inspection to credential a hospital.

"We knew the inspectors were coming with high expectations for the squadron. Westover has been traditionally known AFRC-wide for outstanding medical units. We always sweep at least 50 percent of the awards at AFRC presentations. The expectations were high and we lived up to them," said TSgt. William Forbes, medical services manager.

Earlier, the 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron achieved a similarly impressive score in their HSI inspection of 73 elements.

Forbes attributed his squadron's suc-

cess to every member pulling together as a team in everything they do.

"It's not something you get ready for in six months. The results are due to a sustained history of compliance. The inspectors look at four years. When they come back they will look at record keeping from today," he said.

The 439th ASTS is made up of 165 members, most of whom are doctors, nurses, surgical specialists, cardiopulmonary specialists, pharmacists, nutritionists and other medical professionals as civilians. Several members are serving on Enduring Freedom missions overseas.

The squadron's wartime mission is to establish a 250-bed aeromedical staging facility where medical specialists stabilize and care for patients before flying them to permanent hospitals in the theater of operations or the United States.

Lt Col. Robert Sousa, OIC of the Air Base Clinic, praised the accomplishments of both medical units regarding their HSI performance. "The 439 AMDS continues its tradition of excellence with an unprecedented fourth consecutive rating of excellent or above," he said. "No other wing in AFRC can claim two medical units with ratings of outstanding. These ratings are a testament to the sustained culture of excellence shared by the medical units at Westover."

Medical awards

Westover reservists recently came away with seven of 22 awards handed out at the 22nd Air Force level competition.

The following members of the 439th AMDS were selected to represent the 22nd Air Force at HQ AFRC/SG level in the fall: First Lieutenant Robert Driscoll, TSgt. Michael Gendron, and SrA. Mary Kate Casey.

In addition, two 439th ASTS members will also represent the 22nd. They are TSgt. Steven Marx, Outstanding Reserve NCO assigned to an aeromedical staging squadron, and SSgt. Rebecca Pina, outstanding reserve airman assigned to an aeromedical staging squadron.

The 439th ASTS was also selected for the Outstanding Reserve Medical Quality Initiative. Out of the 42 wings in Air Force Reserve Command, 22 awards are given out each year. The AFRC level competition will take place in November.

Patriot People

Name: Amy Morin
Rank: TSgt.
Age: 32
Address: South Dennis, Mass.
Unit: 439th Services Squadron
Position: Additional Duty Training Manager
Civilian position: Chef/Cook
Favorite food: Steak
Years of service: 13
Favorite sport: Soccer
Favorite hobby: Drawing
Ideal vacation: Camping and white water rafting
Best way to relax: Sports
Preferred entertainment: Sports
Favorite hero: Colin Powell
Favorite music: Irish
Favorite movie: "Stand By Me"
Favorite aircraft: B-2 Stealth Bomber
Pet peeve: Bullies
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Help the Russian children that suffer from the Chernobyl radiation fallout.



Photo by Sr.A. Tom Overliffe

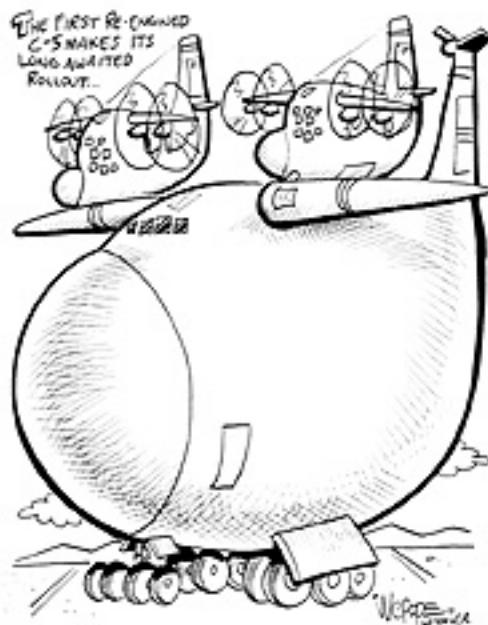
TSgt. Amy Morin

Patriot Praises

Reenlistments:

CMSgt. Coughlin, Leonard A.
 SMSgt. Doyle, Christopher P.
 SMSgt. Kida, John E.
 MSgt. Allocco, Thomas N.
 MSgt. Bennett, Roger C.
 MSgt. Jordan, Ronald M.
 MSgt. Rodrigue, Robert S.
 MSgt. Servant, Paul J.
 MSgt. Smith, Robert J.
 MSgt. Turner, Tracey T.

TSgt. Boucher, Thomas W.
 TSgt. Burek, Stephen E.
 TSgt. Butler, Mark W.
 TSgt. Cohen, Anthony
 TSgt. Grant, Richard J.
 TSgt. Penna, Michael N.
 TSgt. Prior, Juile A.
 TSgt. Ray, Manuel J.
 TSgt. Sullivan, Daniel O.
 TSgt. Wrobel, Steven M.
 SSgt. Brodmerkle, Thomas W.
 SSgt. Fairman, Matthew L.



patriot puns

Awards and Decorations

AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

TSgt. Susan A. Farrell	439 ASTS
TSgt. Colleen M. Hitt	439 ASTS
SSgt. Rebecca L. Pina	439 ASTS
SSgt. Kara B. Stackpole	439 ASTS
SSgt. Silas P. Villarreal	439 ASTS

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

MSgt. Craig G. Reul	439 ASTS
TSgt. Michael E. Allen	439 CES
TSgt. Thomas E. Cowern	439 CES
TSgt. Jeffrey J. Picard	439 AMDS

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Maj. Louis M. Shogry, III	337 AS
Maj. Stanford S. Smith	337 AS
SMSgt. Bruce E. Okeefe	439 CES
SMSgt. Charles M. Szmurlo	439 ASTS

The 439th Airlift Wing Honor seeks more members. The honor guard is having an open house on July 14 at 11 a.m. in Bldg. 3284. For more information, call MSgt. Tom Roe at Ext. 3342.

Bosses Day for activated reservists scheduled

by Gordon A. Newell

The 439th Airlift Wing will conduct a special Employer Appreciation Day on July 18, for reservists who have been activated.

The adjacent application form may be filled out and returned to the Public Affairs office prior to the July A UTA. The office will also accept telephone applications.

Col. Martin M. Mazick, commander of the 439th AW, feels it is an especially meaningful time for employers to learn what their workers are doing under activation.

"Continued employer outreach is critical to the success of our mission at Westover," he said. "Take the time today to nominate your boss!"

Employers will be asked to join the wing commander for breakfast at the Westover Club. They should be at the Club no later than 8 a.m.

Breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. Reservists may attend the breakfast but must pay for their own meal. Bosses are guests of the wing commander.

Reservists are allowed to invite one supervisor. Only reservists assigned to the air crew will be allowed to fly.

Further information is available at the

July 18 – Employer Appreciation Day

Reservist's name, rank and unit: _____

Reservist's home address: _____

Reservist's daytime telephone number: _____

Employer's name and title: _____

Employer's company name: _____

Breakfast for employer: YES _____ NO _____

Breakfast for reservist: YES _____ NO _____

I understand that I may nominate one person annually, and only an individual who is my supervisor, foreman, manager, etc.

Signature: _____

(Falsification of information on this form can be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.)

Return this form to:

439th Airlift Wing/ Public Affairs, 100 Lloyd St., East Wing, Suite 103

Westover ARB, Mass. 01022-1825

fax: (413) 557-2011, for information, call: (413) 557-3500

Public Affairs office at (413) 557-3500 or 2020.

The flight lasts between 90 minutes and two hours, and takes place over New York state and New England, depending on

weather conditions.

Employer Appreciation Days for non-activated reservists will be held in October, during the A and B UTAs.

PATRIOT

PATRIOT online: <http://www.afrc.af.mil/439aw>



Published monthly for Patriots like SrA. Talia Eaves, from Norwich, Conn., and the 2,533 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

439th AW/PA
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East Wing, Suite 103
CHICOPEE, MA 01022-1825

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